



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

WHY OUR WOMEN MARRY ABROAD.

WHY does the American girl marry the Briton? Has she any adequate justification? Do you suppose it pays her? and can such a choice on her part be defended on large grounds as promotive of the greatest good of the greatest number? Is it a fact, as has been flippantly suggested, that she moves to England to get country life, because we have no good roads here yet? Or, on the contrary, can it be demonstrated that one reason our country roads are so bad is that the American girl cannot abide the country, and promptly carries her man off to town at the earliest moment that sees his endeavors blessed with the necessary increase? Is it her fault that country interests tend too much to fall to the care of a residuum that is too poor to get away? Or has the country life not much to do one way or the other with her British propensities?

To be honest, there are other conceivable reasons for marrying an Englishman besides his country roads. He may be a charming gentleman—they are said to be so once in a while—who can win a wife by plain personal courtship, and whom any woman would be justified in marrying on general principles and without specific excuses. Or he may be a good, "average" sort of a man whose advantage over his American brother is a matter of size or complexion or hale appearance. I have known American women who ventured to assert that the feminine eye rejoiced more in the type of male human that treads the pavements of Piccadilly and Pall Mall than in the contemporaneous pedestrians of Fifth Avenue and Broadway.

Or, may be, it is his superior stolidity that electrifies in the Briton. It is to be feared that there is truth in that tale Mr. Kipling or somebody was telling the other day of how the phlegmatic merchants of the East had discovered that the way to beat the American was simply to put him off and let him fret himself reckless: Stolidity is not quite the same as repose, but to persons who are suffering from an acute dearth of repose it may appeal as a tolerable substitute, so that one can imagine an American maid, worn with the restless aspirations of her high-pressure countrymen, turning with sincere relief to pillow her fair young head upon a bosom behind which lurked no threat of heart-failure.

Of course there are American women who cross the seas to endow barren titles, but that sort there is no need of discussing. The question that is really interesting is whether the instinct of preservation is busy inciting our women to marry away from their own land. I know a person who is sometimes asked, "Shall we go and grow up with Chicago?" "No! no! no!" she says. "Shall we go to Boston?" "No!" "Shall we move to New York?" "Not yet." "Will you go and live in London?" "Yes!" "Paris?"

"Oh, yes!" And yet this person ought to have as valid and pronounced a set of American preferences as any of her countrywomen.

Alas! probably she has. They all seem willing to go, if only they can hit on a reasonable excuse and a satisfactory prospect. It must be for the same reason that makes the Needle of Cleopatra and Goringe lean a little longing dip toward the Nile and the Pyramids every evening at sundown. The Needle knows that the greatest climate in the world for development is one of the worst for preservation, and that things that have been perfected beyond any reasonable prospect of improvement are likely to last longer in some less stimulating atmosphere than this. Our women, as all the world concedes, have attained a wonderfully close approximation to perfection. With so much to keep as they have, and so comparatively little to gain, we ought not to wonder, perhaps, that so many of them would be willing, under favorable circumstances, to go and dwell where time is somewhat less edacious than it is with us.

EDWARD S. MARTIN.

"CLAIMS OF LONG DESCENT."

To any one who does not consider the vanity inherent in human nature it is astonishing to note the number of people, even in this country, where every man is a sovereign, who lay claim to royal descent. The third edition of "Americans of Royal Descent" has recently been issued, with 900 pages and several additional pedigrees. Not so very long since a Richmond (Va.) paper had several columns giving in great and edifying detail the pedigrees of divers and sundry families in that State who ran back their genealogical line to some king of England. And farther North the *nouveaux riches*, overwhelmed with all the good things of the present, and feeling secure for the future, not infrequently proceed to provide for the past also by purchasing themselves a comfortable pedigree with some king as a *terminus a quo*. These genealogical acquisitions, like the similar traditional claims of the F. F. V.'s in the Old Dominion, are deemed by the public exceedingly doubtful. Tennyson (himself of undoubted royal ancestry) has said:

"From yon blue sky above us bent
The grand old gardener and his wife
Smile at the claims of long descent."

While claims of royal origin could be of no benefit to the claimants if proven, and certainly could be of small credit, seeing that the average royalty has been a rather disreputable character, there is another side to this question which has been little considered. And that is that these claims, notwithstanding public incredulity, are probably all true. Let us consider. William the Conqueror ascended the throne of England A. D. 1066. Allowing thirty-three years as a generation, there have been twenty-six generations since, counting his children then living as the first generation. Many people leave several children, others leave none. It is certainly not an immoderate calculation to average each descendant as leaving three children. For if each descendant with his wife left only two children, the population would have stood still, whereas the less than a million inhabitants of the British Isles of that day have grown to be nearly forty millions there, and seventy millions on this side of the water. William the Con-